

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 HEW-08 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 PM-09 NSC-10

SS-15 RSR-01 /090 W

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R 251531 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7875

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 2106

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT LI

SUBJ: EDUCATION MINISTER SHERMAN QTE SACKED UNQTE: TOLBERT
CONTINUES SURPRISE VISITS.

1. PRESIDENT TOLBERT DISMISSED MINISTER OF EDUCATION G. FLAMMA SHERMAN YESTERDAY FOLLOWING SURPRISE VISIT TO LATTER' S MINISTRY ON MONDAY AT 0815. SHERMAN WAS ABSENT FROM OFFICE AND REPORTEDLY DID NOT NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT OF HIS RETURN UNTIL EARLY THAT AFTERNOON AT WHICH TIME HE CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN PHYSICALLY IN-DISPOSED. IN LETTER OF DISMISSAL TOLBERT NOTED HE HAD SENT HIS PERSONAL PHYSICIAN DR. LEGENDRE TO ATTEND SHERMAN BUT THAT SHERMAN HAD REFUSED TO BE EXAMINED.
2. TOLBERT ALSO PAID A SURPRISE CALL ON MINISTRY HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE YESTERDAY WHERE HE WAS MET BY ACTING MINISTER HOFF. WHILE THERE TOLBERT CHECKED MINISTRY ATTENDANCE RECORDS, NOTED THAT ONE LOW- LEVEL EMPLOYEE HAD PARTICULARLY POOR ATTEND-ANCE RECORD, AND HAD HIM DISMISSED OUTRIGHT. IN ADDITION, WHEN PRESIDENT UNABLE TO GET IN CONTACT WITH ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT MEIMEI DUKULY, HE PRONOUNCED ONE- MONTH SUSPENSION OF DUKULY.
3. COMMENT: SHERMAN, ONE OF TWO TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES IN CABINET, WAS PREVIOUSLY CAUGHT OUT OF OFFICE DURING TOLBERT

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SURPRISE VISIT LAST YEAR. SHERMAN WAS NOT HIGHLY REGARDED BY MANY OBSERVERS AND WAS ONE OF THOSE OF WHOM THERE WAS SPECULATION HE WAS ON WAY OUT. MOST LIKELY REPLACEMENT IS DEPUTY MINISTER JACKSON F. DOE WHO ALSO OF TRIBAL DESCENT, BUT HE TOO WAS OUT OF OFFICE AT TIME OF SURPRISE VISIT.

4. IN COURSE OF DISMISSAL AND SUSPENSION AT HEALTH MINISTRY, PRESIDENT REITERATED IMPORTANCE OF PUNCTUALITY AND HARD WORK. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT SUCH ACTIONS MAY BE NECESSARY IN FUTURE UNTIL MINISTRY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES TAKE HEED HIS INJUNCTIONS. MANFULL

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